Promotion of superstitions in TV serials

2162. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of serials shown in many T.V. channels are promoting superstitions among people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government would take in this regard to correct the distortion?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not consider and telecast serials which may promote directly or indirectly superstition among the people at large. However, all the TV channels are required to directly adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code *inter alia* stipulates that no programme should be carried in the cable service which encourages superstitions or blind belief.

(c) An inter-Ministerial committee has been constituted by the Government to look into the violations of Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Codes and recommends action to be taken by the Government. Show cause notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes in violation of the Codes. Suitable action as per law is taken in deserving cases. This is an ongoing process.

Cross-media holding for Prasar Bharati

2163. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the statute on broadcast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether media houses are opposed to certain restrictions on cross-media holdings and preferential carriage for Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) At present there is no comprehensive statute on regulation of broadcasting services. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill. A consultation paper along with the draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2006 giving the details have been posted on the Ministry's website *www.mib.nic.in* for inviting comments by 11th September, 2006 from the general public including various stakeholders.

Use of electronic media

2164. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Doordarshan is commissioning serial on "use of electronic media for social change and empowerment on the State of Gujarat";

(b) if so, the producer selected for this serial;

(c) the procedure followed for selecting the producer;

(d) whether the established procedure of Doordarshan has been followed;

(e) the terms and conditions of the agreement with the producer; and

(f) whether Doordarshan is aware about the criminal charges against the selected producer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has approved a project namely, "use of electronic media for social change and empowerment on the State of Gujarat". However, Planning Commission has since decided to drop this project.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Inspection of equipment of media companies

2165. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: